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quote from page 221: "A dream may be the symbolic expression of almost any thought to which strong emotional tones with their impulsive forces have been linked."

We recognize Dr. Prince at his best in this book. The ease of style and the abundance of illustrations drawn from the author's vast experience make his views readily accessible to all. Those who desire to obtain a clear idea of Dr. Prince's theories of mental life and are interested in the mechanism of thought, both normal and abnormal, will find the book of great value.

HERBERT SIDNEY LANGFELD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

L'EXCUSE DE NOBLE SEIGNEUR JAKES DE BOURGOGNE, SEIGNEUR DE FALAIS ET DE BREDAM. Par JEAN CALVIN. Réimprimée sur l'unique exemplaire de l'édition de Genève 1548, avec une introduction par Alfred Cartier. Deuxième édition, revue et augmentée. Genève, A. Jullien. 1911. Pp. lxxviii, 54. 7.50 fr.

Known in Latin translation, the original French edition was discovered only a few years ago, and is here given a worthy setting. This defence of a Netherlands nobleman who had accepted the Reformed faith, addressed to the Emperor Charles V, is among the most vigorous expositions that ever came from Calvin's pen. In many ways it deserves to rank with his famous letter to Francis I, prefaced to the *Institutes* or his *Reply to Cardinal Sadoleto*. In no writing does Calvin show himself more a master of the forming French language. The value of the publication is greatly enhanced by the editor's careful biography of Jaques de Bourgogne, tracing not merely the circumstances of the publication of the *Excuse*, but the long friendship of that nobleman with Calvin and their unhappy estrangement in consequence of the dispute between Calvin and Bolsec regarding predestination.

WILLISTON WALKER.

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THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIAEVAL HISTORY. Planned by J. B. Bury, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History. Edited by H. M. Gwatkin, M.A., and J. P. Whitney, B.D. Vols. I and II. The Macmillan Co. 1911-13.

A striking defect in the historical writing of England and America in the past century has been the failure to produce good general histories. Save for the *History of All Nations* translated and adapted from the German under the editorship of the late John Henry Wright,

the English language has nothing that can compare in quality with the French and German universal histories; there is in English no satisfactory history of ancient, mediaeval, or modern times, and no good general history of France, Germany, Italy, or Spain. This fact alone, apart from their other merits of plan and execution, is a sufficient justification for those considerable enterprises, the *Cambridge Modern History* and the *Cambridge Mediaeval History*. It is true that neither of them is a general history in the older sense of the word. They are meant to instruct rather than to entertain; they will not while away long evenings by the fireside or be found, like Gibbon's first volume, "on every table and almost on every toilette." They are written by the co-operative method, and are subject to all the inequalities and inconveniences which such a method involves. The defects of such a procedure are obvious; its justification is that there is now no other way of treating so vast a subject in a scholarly and serviceable manner, and the result, if not a work of literature, is an indispensable work of reference. If such a series of volumes is interesting, at least in spots, so much the better, but it must in any case be comprehensive, critical, authoritative in its scholarship, clear in its presentation, and ample in its references for further inquiry. These are, however, the merits of a good encyclopædia, and if a work of history is to be anything more, it must combine with them qualities of unity, continuity, and proportion, which are extremely difficult to attain and which have been attained in these works in less measure than their inspirer, Lord Acton, hoped for. With all due recognition of the difficulties of treating so wide a field, one could wish that the process of subdivision had not been carried quite so far, and that more regard might have been paid to the example of the various co-operative histories which assign a whole volume to a single author.

The *Mediaeval History*, planned by Lord Acton's successor, Professor Bury, and edited by Professor Gwatkin and Mr. Whitney, follows the general lines of its predecessor. The period from Constantine to the middle of the fifteenth century is treated in eight substantial volumes of twenty or more chapters each. The several chapters in a volume are ordinarily assigned to as many different specialists, and in some instances single chapters have been divided between two authors. There is no continuous narrative, but duplication is reasonably well avoided, and no significant aspect of the period is left untouched. The bibliographies are quite full, and there is a plentiful supply of maps, which are, however, of quite uneven merit and execution and are unaccompanied by explanations.

Of the volumes so far issued, the first deals with the Roman empire of the fourth and fifth centuries and with the new movements of this period in the church and among the Germanic invaders, while the second continues the story from the accession of Justinian to the death of Charlemagne. As was inevitable in a field where most of the best work has been done by Continental scholars, there are numerous German and French contributors of the type of Becker, Diehl, Hartmann, Jullian, Pfister, Ludwig Schmidt, and Seeliger, while Visigothic Spain is treated by Señor Altamira. Dr. Peisker of Graz contributes a most original and striking account of the Asiatic background of the barbarian invasions, followed by a notable discussion of the beginnings of the Slavic peoples. Among the contributions from England are the chapters on social and economic conditions by Professor Vinogradoff, on the institutions of the later empire by Professor Reid, on Roman Britain by Professor Haverfield, and on the early Anglo-Saxon period by Mr. Corbett. Dr. Roby's chapter on Roman law, though competent, is disappointing. The only American contributor, Professor Burr of Cornell, decidedly holds his own with the rest in his account of Pippin the Short. The history of the church receives attention proportionate to its importance in this period, various points of view being represented by Principal Lindsay on the triumph of Christianity, Professor Gwatkin on Arianism, Mr. C. H. Turner on early church-organization, Archdeacon Hutton on Gregory the Great, and Dom Butler on monasticism. Keltic and Germanic heathenism receives special treatment, as well as the conversion of these peoples to Christianity. Mr. W. R. Lethaby contributes a few pages on early Christian art, while the history of thought is represented in the first volume by Mr. H. F. Stewart, the biographer of Boethius, and left out of the second, where a chapter had been promised by Dr. Montague James. On the whole, the history of religion and the history of institutions come off rather better than the history of culture, but all of these subjects seem likely to receive more attention than in the *Modern History*, where the treatment is for the most part dominantly political.

In general, the new undertaking deserves a cordial welcome, as rendering conveniently accessible for the first time in English the results of a generation and more of special studies which have not only put the history of the Middle Ages upon a more secure foundation, but have broadened and deepened our appreciation of their place in the history of European civilization.

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